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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MSG. 11-70

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SECRETARY DISSEMINATION

Approved For Release 2002/01/22 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000200040049-3

FILE REF.

CS/RF, DEP, SDO, D/OPS, D/ONE, D/NIC
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N/CEN 010341 C/AVIA C/EE-2

Added: EX/NA, NIPE, OLC, RF CS/RF
DCI O/DCI

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HCM561

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 EA-18 H-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 L-02 INR-07
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 /064 W

098184

P 100915Z MAY 71
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3742
INFO SECDEF
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
COMUSMACV

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2234

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL MOOSE

REF: STATE 065953

1. RICHARD MOOSE OF SFRC STAFF SPENT THREE DAYS IN PHNOM PENH MAY 6-9. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF MISSION HE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS KHMER, INCLUDING NEW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN TAM, FOREIGN MINISTER KOUN WICK, OUTGOING MINISTER OF PIT UM SIM, GENERALS SAK SUTSAKHAN AND DREY SAMN, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY HOEUR LAY INN, DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY CAMBODGE CHHUT CHHOEUR.

2. DECISION TO VISIT PHNOM PENH, WHICH WAS NOT ON ORIGINAL ITINERARY, WAS APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY COMMITTEE INTEREST IN KHMER POLITICAL CRISIS, WHICH WAS RESOLVED BY INVESTITURE OF NEW GOVERNMENT ON DAY MOOSE ARRIVED. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT KHMER WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME, HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION (INCLUDING AMERICAN) DURING CONSULTATIONS, AND NOW LOOKED FORWARD TO A PERIOD OF RELATIVE STABILITY LEADING TO

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State Dept. review completed

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#008, ENRILE added at 0805Z, 11 May 1971 S. 43/11

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POSSIBLE ELECTIONS IN THE AUTUMN. WE EXPRESSED TO HIM VIEW THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS POTENTIALLY STRONGER THAN ITS PREDECESSOR BUT NOTED ALSO THAT IT FACES DIFFICULT ECONOMIC DECISIONS ON PRICES AND WAGES WHICH COULD AFFECT ITS POPULARITY. IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVED SIRIK MATAK WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE A REALISTIC VIEW OF BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND WE THOUGHT HE HAD

ASSEMBLED A WORKMANLIKE GROUP TO ASSIST HIM.

3. HE ASKED FOR CURRENT STAFFING PATTERN OF MISSION, WHICH WE GAVE HIM, NOTING THAT PERMANENT POSITIONS STILL LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED. AMBASSADOR INFORMED HIM THAT MODEST AUGMENTATION OF MEDIC FORWARD ELEMENT (SEVEN POSITIONS) AND ECONOMIC STAFF (ABOUT SAME NUMBER) ARE PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED BOTH FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF AID PROGRAMS. AMBASSADOR SIMULTANEOUSLY RESTATED POLICY OF KEEPING STAFF AS SLIM AS POSSIBLE, WITH MAXIMUM RELIANCE ON TDY PERSONNEL. MOOSE COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES CONGRESS WOULD GENERALLY EQUATE ANY SIGNIFICANTLY ENLARGED PRESENCE WITH AN ENLARGED COMMITMENT. HE WAS NOT NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, ABOUT MODEST INCREASES UNDER DISCUSSION.

4. HE WAS OF COURSE INTERESTED IN MILITARY SITUATION, MAP, AND MEDIC ACTIVITIES AND RECEIVED DETAILED AND CANDID BRIEFINGS ON ALL OF THESE. HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE OUR EFFORTS TO AVOID ADVISORY ROLES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY. HE INQUIRED CONCERNING KHMER-LAO MILITARY RELATIONS, DISCUSSION OF WHICH IS BEING REPORTED SEP RATELY. HE ALSO ASKED FOR STATISTICS OF USAF SORTIES AND OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA. HE WAS REFERRED TO COMUSMACV FOR STATISTICS. WE EMPHASIZED THAT KHMER MILITARY PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN VALIDATION OF USAF OPERATIONS IN AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL. AS FOLLOW-UP TO QUESTION ASKED DURING PREVIOUS VISIT, DATT STRESSED THAT BECAUSE OF INCREASED TRAVEL EMBASSY NOW CONSIDERABLY MORE CONFIDENT OF VALIDITY OF OUR MILITARY OBSERVATIONS.

5. HE ASKED ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS. WE SAID THAT ABOUT \$300,000 OF MATERIAL SUPPORT TO FANK AND OTHER KHMER ORGANIZATIONS (LEAFLET, POSTER, CALENDAR, PAMPHLET, SCHOOL KIT AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION) WILL BE FIN NCED OUT OF M P FUNDS NEXT FISCAL YEAR. WE ADDED THAT SIMILAR SUPPORT HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR BY CINCPAC FROM OTHER APPROPRIATIONS. WE POINTED OUT THAT IN-COUNTRY LIAISON WITH THE KHMER ON QUESTIONS

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OF PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS IS PERFORMED BY OUR SMALL TWO-MAN PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT.

6. HE WAS BRIEFED ON ECONOMY AND ON STATUS OF OUR SUPPORTING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE INFORMED HIM THAT IMPORTANT IMF RECOMMENDATIONS POTENTIALLY AFFECTING FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE AND FOREIGN EXCHANGESYSTEM ARE UNDER STUDY BY GKR AND THAT THEY COULD ALSO HAVE EVENTUAL IMPACT ON FORM OF OUR ASSISTANCE. HE DID NOT PRESS FOR DETAILS.

7. IT APPEARS TO US THAT MOOSE WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED, APART FROM HIS IMMEDIATE CONCERN OVER POLITICAL SITUATION, IN UPDATING INFORMATION GATHERED DURING STAFFDEL'S LAST VISIT IN DECEMBER. HIS CONTACTS WITH US WERE FRIENDLY AND OPEN AND THERE WERE NO POINTS OF FRICTION.

SWANK

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